



One of Britain's proudest achievements was the Airspeed Ambassador (two Bristol Centaurus), selected late in the year as equipment for British European Airways. For sheer refinement of design this elegant machine is likely to remain unchallenged for a considerable time.

Widespread regret was occasioned by the abandonment—not on technical grounds—of the Cunliffe-Owen Concordia feeder liner, though the lack of this type will be offset by the introduction of the Percival Prince, similarly powered with two Alvis Leonides engines, during the present year. The smaller Gipsy-powered Merganser was flying during the latter half of 1947, while Short Brothers were putting the finishing touches to the Sealand—a machine which, in many respects, may be considered as an amphibian counterpart of this type. Miles aircraft of the year included the four-engined Merchantman, a larger machine following the Aerovan formula, and the M.68, a light freighter, having a detachable "box-car" fuselage.

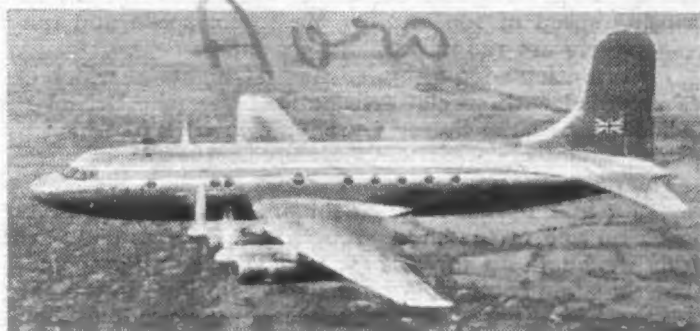
Marathons were in production for the short-range services of British European Airways, but not, as had at one time been planned, with Armstrong-Siddeley Mamba gas turbines. Four D.H. Gipsy Queens are fitted.

S.R.45 takes Shape

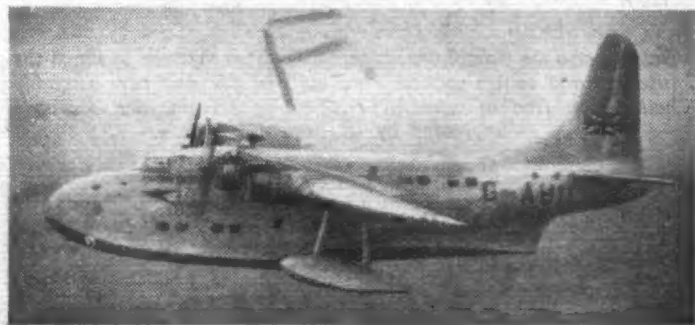
At the Saunders-Roe factory at Cowes, the hull of the S.R.45 transoceanic flying boat (ten Proteus gas turbines) began to take form. Meanwhile, the second Shetland, a joint product of Short and Saunders Roe, was flown. The first of a series of Short Solents, smaller boats than the Shetland and more closely akin to the well-established Hythe, set out on a proving flight during December.

The only new types of light aircraft which materialized

An imaginative "utility" transport was the Miles Merchantman, demonstrated at Radlett.



Encouraging results were obtained with the Avro Tudor IV (four R-R. Merlin) on the South Atlantic route of B.S.A.A.



A Short Solent, as shown above, was engaged on a proving flight late in the year. Below is the Percival Merganser, an attractive 1947 product for feeder-line or charter work.

